



**CITY OF RYE, NEW YORK
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

June 20, 2006 – 7:00 p.m. – Mayor’s Conference Room, City Hall

Present: Michael Caponiti, Fred Dunn, Paula Gamache, Norm MacMaster, Steve Meyers, Jono Peters and Arthur Stampleman; City Council liaison George Pratt and City staff liaison Michael Genito.

Absent: Steve Joyce, David Mullane and Council liaison Duncan Hennes.

Guests: None.

Pavement Management System Sub-Committee Report

Norm MacMaster distributed a discussion paper on the pavement management system and opened the floor for comments. Comments included the following:

- \$500,000 per year (in 2005 dollars) would only keep our roads at their current condition level.
- The pricing in the study for Theall Road of approximately \$300,000 is far below current estimates of \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million. This might indicate that the values in the study may be far below what might actually be anticipated today.
- We should consider approaching New York State for additional aid for Boston Post Road, being that it is U.S. Route 1. We understand that the City of Rye requested and was granted control of the road back in the 1950’s, but much has changed since then and the State should assist the City in maintaining the road. The Council should consider whether there remains a value in having control over Boston Post Road. Perhaps we could negotiate different levels of State and City control over the road.
- We should study allocating specific funds, such as parking meter revenues, the proposed real estate transfer tax, or others to road maintenance.
- The Council should establish a policy direction to maintain our roads in a specific condition. Our job is to provide the Council with information and suggestions to assist them in developing policy.
- We should bring the road information, as well as the results of the forthcoming bridge study, to the attention of the Council before the budget process, preferably in July. This will allow a greater focus on the need to improve our road infrastructure, and allow for greater discussion on the issues and decisions on allocating limited financial resources. The goal would be for the Council to provide direction to staff on how to proceed in preparing the Capital Improvement Program and annual budget.
- A dollar spent on maintenance returns a dollar fifty in savings over the long term.

At the conclusion of the comments Norm MacMaster offered to compose a draft letter to the City Council to be distributed to the Committee for review and comment, after which a final version would be prepared and forwarded to the City Council. George Pratt offered to enter it as an action item for the July 19, 2006 Council meeting.

Tax Certiorari Sub-Committee Report

Arthur Stampleman reported that he had assembled information on tax certioraris and wanted to discuss the information with the sub-committee and make a complete report to the full committee.

Other Business

Steve Meyers noted that sub-committees gather information that is only distributed to sub-committee members and would like it distributed to the full committee. It was agreed that the sub-committees should attach all documentation to at least their draft reports, in the event that a committee member would like to comment.

Steve Meyers also asked whether or not meetings of the sub-committees are required to be noticed under the Open Meetings Law. George Pratt offered to obtain a legal opinion on the issue.

Jono Peters noted that everyone on the committee is encouraged to write letters or speak of committee issues with the community but should not note that they are a member of the committee unless they are officially speaking for the committee. Arthur Stampleman advised that the City Council required all committee members to disclose that they are members of committees. George Pratt asked that the conversation continue after the City Council minutes requiring disclosure of committee participation are reviewed by the committee, and if the direction of the Council is not clear George Pratt would present the issue to the City Council.

Next Finance Committee Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room in City Hall.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Jono Peters made a motion, seconded by Fred Dunn with all in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Genito